

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
  - configuring a virtualization layer to interface between a host and at least one storage device, wherein the virtualization layer defines at least one virtual volume comprising objects defining a mapping from the at least one virtual volume to data in the at least one storage device, wherein the objects are distributed across more than one processor in the virtualization layer and comprise a virtualization database;
  - storing information about a state of the at least one storage device in a-the virtualization database ~~that is distributed across more than one processor in the virtualization layer;~~
  - establishing a state manager for each processor, wherein the state manager monitors the state of the at least one storage device;
  - issuing a quiescence instruction to the state manager for each processor; and responsive to receiving a quiescence instruction by the state manager,
    - halting long lived-term operations underway at the time the quiescence instruction is received; and
    - completing short term operations comprising operations that are other than long lived-term operations and that are underway at the time the quiescence instruction is received.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
issuing the quiescence instruction when a storage device fails.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
issuing the quiescence instruction when a processor fails.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving notification from the state manager when short term operations are completed and long lived-term operations are halted.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the short term operations include at least one of a read operation and a write operation.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the long lived-term operations include at least one of rebuilding a virtual volume and scrubbing a virtual volume.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
reconfiguring the virtualization layer after the notification has been received from the state manager.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein configuring further comprises configuring the virtualization layer not to interface with a device that has failed.

9. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

- a plurality of storage devices storing data corresponding to a host;
- a virtualization layer between the host and the plurality of storage devices, the virtualization layer comprising objects defining a mapping from at least one virtual volume to data in the plurality of storage devices, wherein the objects are distributed across more than one processor in the virtualization layer and comprise a virtualization database. [[;]]the
- a virtualization database storing information about a state of each of the plurality of storage devices;
- a plurality of processors, each processor having a state manager that monitors the state of at least one of the plurality of storage devices corresponding to the processor, that receives a quiescence instruction in response to a change in the state of one of the plurality of storage devices, and, responsive to receiving the quiescence instruction, halts long lived-term operations underway at the time the quiescence instruction is received and completes short term operations comprising operations that are other than long lived-term operations and that are underway at the time the quiescence instruction is received.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein  
one of the plurality of processors comprises a master processor that issues the  
quiescence instruction in response to a failure of one of the plurality of storage  
devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein each processor's state  
manager further notifies the master processor when short term operations are  
complete and long lived-term operations are halted.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the master processor  
further reconfigures the virtualization layer after notification is received from each  
processor's state manager that short term operations are complete and long lived-term  
operations are halted.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically updating storage associated  
with a host, comprising:

means for configuring a virtualization layer to interface between the host and at  
least one storage device wherein the virtualization layer defines at least one virtual  
volume comprising objects defining a mapping from the at least one virtual volume to  
data in the at least one storage device, wherein the objects are distributed across

more than one processor in the virtualization layer and comprise a virtualization database;

means for storing information about a state of the at least one storage device in ~~a~~the virtualization database;

means for receiving data about a new state of the at least one storage device;

means for updating the virtualization database with the data about the new state of the at least one storage device; and

means for updating the mapping contained in the objects based on the data about the new state of the at least one storage device.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the updating is responsive to the storage device becoming an available storage device.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the updating is responsive to the storage device becoming an unavailable storage device.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising:

means for reconfiguring the virtualization layer after the mapping has been updated to form a reconfigured virtualization layer, wherein the reconfigured virtualization layer does not interface with the unavailable storage device.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, further comprising:  
means for reconfiguring the virtualization layer after the mapping has been  
updated to form a reconfigured virtualization layer, wherein the reconfigured  
virtualization layer interfaces with the available storage device.

20. (Currently Amended) A tangibly-embodied computer-readable medium  
containing code for directing a processor to perform a method for dynamically  
updating storage associated with a host, the method comprising:  
configuring a virtualization layer to interface between the host and at least one  
storage device wherein the virtualization layer defines at least one virtual volume  
comprising objects defining a mapping from the virtual volume to data in the at least  
one storage device, wherein the objects are distributed across more than one  
processor in the virtualization layer and comprise a virtualization database;  
storing information about a state of the at least one storage device in a-the  
virtualization database;  
receiving data about a new state of the at least one storage device;  
updating the virtualization database with the data about the new state of the at  
least one storage device; and  
updating the mapping contained in the objects based on the data about the new  
state of the at least one storage device.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the updating is responsive to the storage device becoming an available storage device.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the updating is responsive to the storage device becoming an unavailable storage device.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, the method further comprising:

reconfiguring the virtualization layer to form a reconfigured virtualization layer after the mapping has been updated, wherein the reconfigured virtualization layer does not interface with the unavailable storage device.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, the method further comprising:

reconfiguring the virtualization layer to form a reconfigured virtualization layer after the mapping has been updated, wherein the reconfigured virtualization layer interfaces with the available storage device.